

April 11, 2024

THE ANT

As spring begins, the world seems to be coming back to life in many ways. Trees and plants start blooming and animals that were once dormant or migrated begin to come back out into the world. With spring here, I also know that there is a battle that is about to begin. Since I have been a homeowner, I have worked to battle what I like to call "The Plight of the Ant." They seem to never stop. No matter how much I try, they continue to work and find ways to invade the house. They laugh in the face of pest control and they have already found a new gap or crack before I have sealed up the previous one. I have learned to be alert for the very first line they make and to strike a quickly as possible before they invade and I am defeated. You have to hand it to the ant. They are resilient in their plan and will stop at nothing. Which is why God wants us to learn from them. **Proverbs 6:6-8** says, "Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest."

You may not realize this but by the time ants make it onto our porch or in our house in the spring, they have already went through a lot. Ants actually hibernate, much like bears do. During the final months of Fall, they eat large amounts of food and put on fat. That way when winter comes they can go deep into their homes and lay dormant until warm weather returns. When spring finally arrives, they have to begin to dig their way out of their homes. Because the colony had all stopped moving, the holes that they once used to make it to the surface have closed up. With the last little bit of energy reserves they have, they begin to dig out. By the time they are done getting out, they are lethargic and on the brink of death. They immediately begin trying to eat whatever they can to gain strength.

With all that went on this past year and throughout winter, I can sympathize with the ant. Now that more people are getting out, getting vaccinated, and with states opening back up, it is like we are coming out of hibernation and trying to figure out what all has changed. Were we prepared for such a long period of time not worshipping all together? Were we prepared for such a time of spiritual isolation? Do we feel spiritual starved and deprived, much like those ants? The fact is that ants were designed to hibernate, but we were not.

When we look at the news and what our culture calls right and wrong we can see that man was not designed to be away from God. Paul warned the church at Ephesus in **Ephesians 4:17-20** "Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their

understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ!" It is important for us to get our spiritual bodies back in check and make sure that we are not falling into the world and dying. Just like the ants, we need to make sure that we are feeding ourselves spiritually. We should desire to be fed and reject what the world tries to entice us with. **1 Peter 2:1-3** says, "So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good." We need to make sure that we are engaging and actively participating in Bible studies, be it online or in person. We should work to meet with others for time of study and working to grow our daily prayer lives.

We must also strive to be together as much as possible. This is where I find the ant to be so powerful. As said earlier, the ant has to dig back out at the end of a hibernation. With the weakened state of the ants deteriorating body, every move has to be calculated. If the ant puts too much effort in digging out it will never make it to the surface. Fortunately the ants don't have to do it alone. When it is time to come forth, every ant participates in clearing the way. They bear one another's load and if one begins to get too weak, another is there to take over. That is how God desires for us to be as well. **Hebrews 10:24-25** says, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." This isn't simply a command but a prescription from the Great Physician. God knows that we cannot go through this life alone, that is why He sent His son, and that is why He established His kingdom, the church. **Galatians 6:2** calls us to "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." We cannot do that if we are not actively working together. **1 Peter 3:8** says, "Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind." As we begin to meet back together, having Bible classes for all ages and worshipping together on Sundays, let us remember to be in unity. Working together and shining the light of Christ in this dark world. Let us remember to be as headstrong as the ant in our quest to "go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

(**Mark 16:15-16**) **Andrew Spivey**

COORDINATED BIBLE CLASS STUDIES

Sunday Read – Ephesians 3-4
Wednesday Read – Ephesians 5-6



Questions for last week's reading of;

Colossians 3-4 & Ephesians 1-2.

Questions:

1. With what virtues should we clothe ourselves?
2. How should Christians sing?
3. What is the mystery of Christ that Paul wanted to teach?
4. Who is the head of the church?
5. How can someone who used to be dead in their sins become alive in Christ?

SENIOR GROUP

The Senior Group will meet on **Thursday, April 18th at 5:00 pm.** Please bring finger foods and drinks.

WIDOWS/WIDOWERS LUNCHEON

The next Widows/Widowers Luncheon will be held on **Sunday, April 21, 2024.** Excel's will be hosting the luncheon. A sign-up sheet is in the foyer.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

There will be a Men's Breakfast for all men of the Nashville Road congregation on **Saturday April 27th at 8:00 am** in the fellowship room.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who came out to help me celebrate my 90th birthday. It made me feel "16" again. Love you all, **Frances Catron**

*Grace be unto you, and peace,
from God our Father, and from
the Lord Jesus Christ.
Philippians 1:2*

ORDER OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

April 14, 2024

9:00 AM

BIBLE STUDY

(Classes for Nursery – High School upstairs)

Song.....Jonathan Senn
Opening Prayer.....Matt Ellis
Auditorium Lesson.....Tim Strickland

10:00 AM SERVICE

Welcome.....Bob Brown
Scripture Reading.....Corey Nelsen
Song Leader.....Jonathan Senn
Opening Prayer.....Tony Butler
Lord's Supper.....Rick Gallagher
Servers.....R. Buck, M. Lyle, C. Suddarth,
C. Newby, A. Williamson, J. Sever

Sermon.....Tim Strickland
Closing Prayer.....Josh Johnson

5:00 PM SERVICE

Welcome.....Bob Brown
Song Leader.....Jonathan Senn
Opening Prayer.....Garrett Rowlett
Sermon.....Tim Strickland
Lord's Supper.....Jim Cherry
Closing Prayer.....Brent Smith

WEDNESDAY

April 17, 2024

7:00 PM

Welcome.....Bob Brown
Song Leader.....Jonathan Senn
Opening Prayer.....Bob Sever
Lesson.....Tim Strickland
Closing Prayer.....Kevin Siler

Ushers for April.....Eric Stephenson & Zach Tooley
Communion Care for April.....B/T Brown

Door Greeters – West Door.....T & J Cummins
East Door.....B & M Smith
Visitor's Desk Volunteer.....Diana Stephenson

IF YOU CANNOT SERVE, PLEASE CALL

Alex Sherrill.....615-289-9935
Church Office.....615-452-3431

Nashville Road Church of Christ
 1883 Nashville Pike
 Gallatin, TN 37066
 Web Site: nashvilleroadcoc.org
 E-mail: nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
 Sunday Evening Worship 5:00 p.m. - Wednesday Evening Worship 7:00 p.m.

SICK LIST

David Williams is home now and doing better. Myra Rasnick is home now and doing well. Janice Johnson is in NHC Sumner Place. James Spivey got a good report from the cancer Dr. Faye Hart had back surgery last week. Surgery went well but is having some side effects from meds. JoAnn Williamson fell and broke her wrist. She is now at NHC in Hendersonville. Ottis Cothron had abdominal surgery and the surgery went well. Pat Watson, former member, health issues. Paul Gruber neighbor of Bob & Sherry Sever has been diagnosed with bladder cancer. He is now undergoing a new drug therapy for the next few months. Larry Bailey, son of Tina Bailey a former member, has been diagnosed with stage 4 liver cancer.

SHUT-INS

Melba Hill; Jean Deaton;
 Jane Hughes, 126 Seabury Dr., Greenville, SC 29615.

We depend on families and friends to help us update this list. Please notify us of any changes.

OUR RECORD THIS WEEK

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Bible Study..... | 107 |
| Morning Worship..... | 168 |
| Sunday Evening..... | 68 |
| Wednesday Evening..... | 69 |
| Contribution..... | \$10,543.00 |
| Youth Group Account..... | \$2,394.00 |

PRAYER LIST

James Spivey; Ottis Cothron; Sara Hosman; Anita Cato; Shauna Lockett; Tony Perry; Jean Knowles; Zach Tooley; Mary Ann Reinhart; Shelby Ross; Sandi Jones; Lena Baggett; Maxine Cothron; Frances Catron; Charlie Cliburn; Heather Lemley daughter of Michael & Cathy Lemley. Elaine Reynolds, friend of Christie Coleman; Alan Greene, nephew of Carl & Pam Newby; Bethany Shoulders, granddaughter of Evelyn Harris; Samantha Hager, friend of June Thompson; Bryan Grissom cousin to Joyce Clark & Robbie Glover; Vycki Puckett, daughter of Jack & Anita Cato; Ty Tyler son of Ann Tyler; Wade Kennedy father of Diana Stephenson; Ida Lou Sherrill, mother of Alex Sherrill; Taylor Lackford, niece of Brenda Veale; Dustin Lackford, nephew of Brenda Veale; Larry Conley, friend of Wanda Proctor; Harold Cole, friend of Lena Baggett; Bobbie Carter, sister of Janice Johnson; Walter Wooten, brother of Wanda Sherrill; Aza Topik, grandson of Charlie & Wanda Seals.

Elders

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Tony Butler..... | 615-452-0560 |
| Jim Cherry..... | 615-479-2149 |
| David Johnson..... | 615-300-9084 |
| Alex Sherrill..... | 615-289-9935 |
| David Thompson..... | 615-598-6621 |

Deacons

Carl Newby Jonathan Senn Brent Smith
 Eric Stephenson Adam Williamson

Nashville Road CHURCH OF CHRIST

1883 Nashville Pike
 Gallatin, TN 37066

Phone (615) 452-3431
 Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 2:30. p.m.
 Web Site: www.nashvilleroad.org
 Email: nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net

ANDREW SPIVEY, Pulpit and Family Minister
 TIM STRICKLAND, Associate Minister
 GARRETT ROWLETT, Youth Minister